

Dear Chairman Powell & FCC Committee Members,

As a public high school teacher, I realize the importance of having differing viewpoints in the classroom. Without various perspectives, the class would be dominated by the strongest students and class discussions would be unilateral. By the same token, the proposed plan to de-regulate the restrictions on media ownership serve only to benefit the few, wealthiest mega - media companies and, as a result, independent, democratic voices will be eliminated or, at best, on the fringe of media analysis and discussion.

This was readily apparent in the reporting over the most recent Iraq war whereby I needed to contact 3 or 4 different news sources to find out what was really going on. Take, for example, the story of PFC Lynch. How could we ever have learned the truth of her experience without differing news sources to cross - reference each other and single out the truth?

I understand your motivation is to make cable more affordable for the consumer, but what is saved in cash will be spent when society is "dumbed down" and people will be ill - informed of important issues facing their lives. This policy may come back to haunt the conservative voice of the major media players.

Democracy requires a conversation among various perspectives just as in the classroom. If you want to preserve this precious institution, then vote NO to de-regulation and YES to democracy.

- A very concerned media hound, teacher & citizen,

Reuben Steinglass